

service to the residents of Santa Clara County.

**MARGOT CARLSON 1997 NATIONAL
CRIME VICTIM SERVICE AWARD
RECIPIENT**

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the Gang Victim Assistance Program and its executive director, Margot Carlson. This unique program from Orange County, CA started as a project of Community Service Programs, Inc. The Gang Victim Assistance Program and Ms. Carlson were honored with a Crime Victim Service Award by Attorney General Janet Reno on Friday, April 18, 1997.

Last year, the program helped more than 970 victims of gang-related violence and their families. Since the launch of the program in 1990, it has worked closely with the Orange County district attorney's gang unit by providing support to victims and witnesses through the investigation and prosecution of each case of gang-related violence. The nonprofit human service organization is comprised of eight bicultural and bilingual victim specialists, enabling it to respond to problems that Latino crime victims face when confronted by gang violence.

The program's victim specialists are continuously on call and respond to various situations which include accompanying investigating officers to the crime scene, delivering death notifications, assessing crime victims' safety and emergency needs, and providing referrals to support agencies. These situations utilize the victim specialists' training in victim support and counseling. This program has been so successful that the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime is creating a protocol based upon gang victim assistance for other communities needing similar programs.

I would like my colleagues in Congress to join me in recognizing Ms. Margot Carlson and the Gang Victim Assistance Program of Orange County, CA. Their contributions to the Orange County community have been invaluable and inspiring. I commend the Department of Justice and Attorney General Janet Reno for honoring them with the Crime Victims Service Award.

**PRESIDENT WAIVES CORRIDOR
ACT YET AGAIN**

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. The State Department has notified the House International Relations Committee of the President's intention to invoke the national security waiver clause of the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act. That law bars U.S. assistance to any country which prohibits or restricts the transport or delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance to other countries. The national security clause allows the President to waive the implementation of the law on the grounds of U.S. national security interests.

The beneficiary of the administration's munificence is Turkey, which has refused since 1993 to let United States humanitarian aid transit its territory to Armenia. Referring to Turkey's ethnic kinship to Azerbaijan, which has been locked in conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh since 1988, and to the occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians, Ankara has closed all land routes to Armenia. The opening of an air corridor in 1995 has in no way mitigated the impact of this decision, which forces United States aid to transit Georgia.

Last year, President Clinton also invoked the national security waiver clause of the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, without bothering to inform Congress in advance. We learned of

the administration's decision post facto, from Turkey's Foreign Minister, who announced it at a May 21, 1995, press conference. The waiver had actually been signed on May 16. This year, President Clinton, having learned his lesson and seeking to blunt criticism, at least gave Congress advance notification.

President Clinton's graciousness in 1997 does not, however, compensate for maintaining a bad policy. The arguments in the administration's memorandum of justification for the waiver, neither individually or collectively, can explain away turning a blind eye to Ankara's flouting of basic principles of civilized behavior in the international community. True, Turkey has ethnic ties to Azerbaijan, and is a NATO ally, and the United States cooperates with Turkey on a spectrum of issues. But as I said when I introduced the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act in February 1995, it should be an obvious and unobjectionable principle of U.S. assistance that countries keeping U.S. humanitarian aid from reaching third countries should not receive U.S. aid. Nothing has happened in the intervening 2 years to change my view on this subject. However close Turkey may be to Azerbaijan, Turkey is not a party to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. There is simply no reason for Ankara to block the delivery of United States humanitarian aid to Armenia. Moreover, as a member of the OSCE, Turkey has certain commitments: the 1991 Moscow Document calls on participating states to "cooperate fully to enable humanitarian relief operations to be undertaken speedily and effectively; to take all necessary steps to facilitate speedy and unhindered access for such relief operations; [and to] make the necessary arrangements for those relief operations to be carried out."

The administration's memorandum of justification is a poor attempt to defend the indefensible. Turkey is impeding the delivery of our humanitarian aid to refugees. That policy is unacceptable. So is the administration's policy of refusing to confront Ankara on this fundamental issue.